

Commissioners

to:

GHG-Endangerment-Docket

06/22/2009 11:48 AM

Please see attached letter from Commissioner Jim Seldenright.  -
EPA.doc

June 19, 2009

ATTN: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0171

Environmental Protection Agency,
EPA DocketCenter (EPA/DC)
Mailcode 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

June 16, 2009

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We appreciate the open space we are blessed to have in Tuscarawas County, Ohio and we appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help us keep the environment clean for all to enjoy. But we are also practical and understand that sometimes you have to compromise.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your compromise regarding the recent finding that greenhouse gas emissions are an endangerment to health. Regardless how good intentioned this finding might be, it has the potential to create significant problems, specifically that the finding will spawn class action lawsuits against businesses, farmers and even governmental bodies for threatening a person's health. The potential cost for fighting these lawsuits would be too much to bear for some businesses and would create even more havoc for municipalities and counties already crippled by reduced tax revenue as a result of the recession.

I respectfully request you consider one or both of these suggestions: change the finding to cite an endangerment to welfare instead of health or leave the regulation of greenhouse gasses up to our policy makers in Congress.

If the EPA insists on acting, a finding of endangerment to welfare can be as effective as a health finding without the crippling legal liability. If there is concern that the welfare finding will not do as much to ameliorate the situation then extending the comment period by another month or two should provide the opportunity to hear from more experts. The consequences of the existing health proposal are simply too destructive.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Seldenright
Commissioner, Tuscarawas County